

to Gen. Gaines<sup>37</sup> and the recommendation to the Whigs of the Union of his name for chief magistrate by members of Congress. My own private opinion in regard to the armistice,<sup>38</sup> is that two of the three Democratic Commissioners (Davis & Worth), should be made responsible for what was done, if it turns out to be injurious to the service; it will be recollected that Col. Davis was a son in law of Gen. Taylor, and the misfortune is that demagoguism is too frequently mistaken for genuine talent, - however at some future day, I will give you a correct history of every thing connected with that pice of military diplomacy, as possitively came under my observation - in the meantime you will be pleased to regard this as confidential.— Gen. Henderson's conversation with me on the subject at Monterey and at Carnage, went to exonerate Gen. Taylor personally from all blame, and the hasty part (and doubtless unauthorized by Gen. T) that Col. Jef. Davis acted in the consultation, caused the result.

Please write me an answer at an early day.

I have the honor to be  
your obt. Servt.  
E. J. FOSTER.

Hon. W. P. Mangum  
U. S. S.

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WPM-LC

*Lewis Cass to Willie P. Mangum*

WASHINGTON  
Feb. 10. 47

My dear Sir,

I intended to call on you this morning, but I find myself so engaged that it is not possible. I wished to express the hope that on further reflection you could find it proper to assent

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<sup>37</sup>On November 5, 1847, Taylor wrote a long letter to General Edmund Pendleton Gaines which was published in the *New York Herald*, January 24, 1847, defending himself and expressing his views of how the war should be conducted. It was apparently a bid for political power. Smith, *The War with Mexico*, I, 347, 507.

<sup>38</sup>In the course of the battle over Monterey, the Mexican general offered to surrender the town. Generals William J. Worth, J. Pinkney Henderson and Colonel Jefferson Davis made the terms which permitted the Mexican troops to march out with their side arms. For making the terms this generous, Taylor was severely criticised. Dyer, *Zachary Taylor*, 202-206; Holman, Hamilton, *Zachary Taylor, Soldier of the Republic*, Indianapolis, 1941, pp. 214-216.